

Message Text

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UNCLAS BRASILIA 2061

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

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SUBJECT: GEISEL'S STATEMENT ON U.S.-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS, PRESIDENT
CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL, AND FRG-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMEN
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REF: BRASILIA 0925 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. IN STATEMENTS DURING PRESS CONFERENCES IN BONN
AND MEXICO CITY, AND IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE BRAZILIAN CONGRESS,
PRESIDENT GEISEL DISCUSSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSTURE TOWARD
THE UNITED STATES AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT.
IN THESE STATEMENTS PRESIDENT GEISEL STRESSED BRAZIL'S
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INTEREST IN MAINTAINING A "PERMANENT, OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE"
DIALOGUE. HE ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE
RECEIVED AS A FRIEND; HE EXPECTED PRESIDENT CARTER TO
RAISE THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, AND, IN TURN, WOULD REAFFIRM
THE BRAZILIAN POSITION. IN HIS VIEW, POINTS OF CONVERGENCE
WERE, HOWEVER, GREATER THAN THE DIVERGENCIES AND THE
TWO PRESIDENTS WOULD, THROUGH DIALOGUE, SEEK COMMON

VIEWPOINTS. LATIN AMERICA SHOULD NOT LOOK ON THE US AS AN ANTAGONISTIC COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO "JORNAL DO BRASIL" (MARCH 11), PRESIDENT GEISEL IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BONN, MARCH 10, COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL AND THE FRG-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL AT THE END OF MARCH HAS NO CONNECTION AT ALL WITH MY VISIT TO WEST GERMANY. IT IS MERE COINCIDENCEBRAZIL AS WELL AS THE FRG HAVE ASSUMED A POSITION, IN RELATION TO THE U.S., OF RESPECTING AND MAINTAINING THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.... IN TALKS I HAD WITH THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT, IT WAS AGAIN MADE CLEAR THAT THIS IS THE POSITION OF BOTH THE FRG AND BRAZIL.... THE AGREEMENT IS IN FULL OPERATION.... DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL HE OBVIOUSLY WILL BROACH THIS PROBLEM AND I WILL STATE ONCE MORE THE BRAZILIAN POSITION. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE WELCOMED TO BRAZIL AND WILL BE RECEIVED AS A FRIEND, BECAUSE I THINK THAT THE TIES AND POINTS OF CONVERGENCE WHICH WE HAVE WITH THE U.S. ARE GREATER THAN THE POINTS OF DIVERGENCE. WE AGREE ON MANY MORE THINGS THAN WE DISAGREE. AND, ON THOSE POINTS THAT WE DISAGREE, WE CLEARLY WILL SEEK TO DIALOGUE TO SEE IF WE CAN FIND COMMON VIEWPOINTS."

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3. IN HIS MESSAGE ON THE OPENING OF THE BRAZILIAN CONGRESS, PRESIDENT GEISEL SAID (IN PART): "OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US (IN 1977) WERE INTENSIVE AND MARKED BY FREQUENT CONTACTS AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL... OF SPECIAL MENTION IS THE VISIT OF MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER, WIFE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN PRESIDENT... THE GOB HAS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN WITH THE U.S. A PERMANENT, CONSTRUCTIVE AND OPEN DIALOGUE, WHICH HAS HELPED EACH OF THE PARTIES TO UNDERSTAND THE VIEWPOINTS OF THE OTHER... MEASURES WERE TAKEN WHICH HELPED TO MAINTAIN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN A CLIMATE OF NORMALITY AND OF MUTUAL RESPECT..."

4. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL), PRESIDENT GEISEL DEFINED A SIMILAR POSITION IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY. HE SAID (IN PART): "BRAZIL HAS HAD TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. EVER SINCE THE DAYS OF OUR INDEPENDENCE... WE HAVE NEVER HAD AN UNSOLVABLE DISAGREEMENT... BEING FRIENDS DOES NOT MEAN WE SHOULD AGREE ON EVERYTHING. WE HAVE HAD DISAGREEMENT WHICH WE ALWAYS TRY TO SOLVE THROUGH

TALK, DIALOGUE, AND UNDERSTANDING; AND WHEN WE CANNOT
FIND AN IMMEDIATE SOLUTION, WE TRY TO PRESERVE OUR
AUTONOMY AND SELF-DETERMINATION. I KNOW THAT
SOME COUNTRIES HAVE MORE AND SOME COUNTRIES HAVE LESS
DIFFICULTIES WITH THE U.S., BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE
SHOULD NOT LOOK AT THE U.S. AS AN ANTAGONISTIC
COUNTRY."
JOHNSON

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